

HONORABLE MICHELLE L. PETERSON

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

LEE L. WONG,

Plaintiff,

vs.

PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES,
LLC,

Defendant.

NO. 2:20-cv-00928-MLP

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order.

The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

2. "CONFIDENTIAL" MATERIAL

"Confidential" material shall include the following documents and tangible things produced or otherwise exchanged: Documentation disclosing Plaintiff's personal identifying

1 and financial information, and Defendant's proprietary training and operating policies and
2 procedures.

3 3. SCOPE

4 The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as
5 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2)
6 all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any
7 testimony, conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal
8 confidential material.

9 However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in
10 the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

11 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

12 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is
13 disclosed or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for
14 prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be
15 disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this
16 agreement. Confidential material must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a
17 location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized
18 under this agreement.

19 4.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless otherwise
20 ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may
21 disclose any confidential material only to:

22 (a) the receiving party's counsel of record in this action, as well as
23 employees of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this
24 litigation;

25 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the
26 receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the

1 parties agree that a particular document or material produced is for Attorney's Eyes Only and
2 is so designated;

3 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for
4 this litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound"
5 (Exhibit A);

6 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

7 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication
8 of confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging
9 service instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to
10 immediately return all originals and copies of any confidential material;

11 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is
12 reasonably necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be
13 Bound" (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court.
14 Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential
15 material must be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone
16 except as permitted under this agreement;

17 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
18 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

19 4.3 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or
20 referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating
21 party, in accordance with Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating
22 party will remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or
23 whether a motion to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and
24 confer process, the designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific
25 confidential information at issue, and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to
26 seal, along with any objection to sealing the information at issue. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets

1 forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party
 2 seeks permission from the court to file material under seal. A party who seeks to maintain the
 3 confidentiality of its information must satisfy the requirements of Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(B),
 4 even if it is not the party filing the motion to seal. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result
 5 in the motion to seal being denied, in accordance with the strong presumption of public access
 6 to the Court's files.

7 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

8 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each
 9 party or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement
 10 must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the
 11 appropriate standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of
 12 material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other
 13 portions of the material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not
 14 warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

15 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are
 16 shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to
 17 unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary
 18 expenses and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

19 If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated
 20 for protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all
 21 other parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

22 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this
 23 agreement (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or
 24 ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement
 25 must be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

26 (a) Information in documentary form: (e.g., paper or electronic documents

1 and deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial
 2 proceedings), the designating party must affix the word “CONFIDENTIAL” to each page that
 3 contains confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies
 4 for protection, the producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by
 5 making appropriate markings in the margins).

6 (b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties
 7 and any participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the deposition or other
 8 pretrial proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate
 9 other testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days
 10 after receiving the transcript of the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions
 11 of the transcript, or exhibits thereto, as confidential. If a party or non-party desires to protect
 12 confidential information at trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.

13 (c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place
 14 on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the
 15 word “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant
 16 protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected
 17 portion(s).

18 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to
 19 designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating
 20 party’s right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely
 21 correction of a designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the
 22 material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

23 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

24 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of
 25 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party’s confidentiality
 26 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic

1 burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to
 2 challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the
 3 original designation is disclosed.

4 6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute
 5 regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding
 6 confidential designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or
 7 in a declaration or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer
 8 conference with other affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action.
 9 The certification must list the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith
 10 effort to confer requires a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

11 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court
 12 intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under
 13 Local Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden
 14 of persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and
 15 those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and
 16 burdens on other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall
 17 continue to maintain the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the
 18 challenge.

19 7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER
 20 LITIGATION

21 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that
 22 compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as
 23 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that party must:

24 (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the
 25 subpoena or court order;

26 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in

the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and

(c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed confidential material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement, and (d) request that such person or persons execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties agree to the entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving party must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts and summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of destruction.

Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all

documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain confidential material.

The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD

Dated: September 17, 2020

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PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any documents in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other federal or state proceeding, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege applicable to those documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or any other privilege or protection recognized by law.

DATED this 18th day of September, 2020.



MICHELLE L. PETERSON
United States Magistrate Judge

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of
_____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty
of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that
was issued by the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington on
[date] in the case of _____ [insert formal name of the case and the number and
initials assigned to it by the court]. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of
this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply
could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise
that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated
Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this
Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the
Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated
Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____